

LITTLE ROCK AFB, ARKANSAS

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

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RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY NOVEMBER 6, 2010



Welcome to the thirty-third annual Retiree Appreciation Day event to be held November 6, 2010, at the Thomas Community Activity Center, building 868, located across from the old base exchange on Arnold Drive.

We will start the event at 8:00 a.m. with an opening ceremony and a welcome to Little Rock Air Force Base by Colonel Minihan, 19th Airlift Commander.

There will be about fifty vendors from around the state along with base personnel taking part, such as the ID card office will be open in building 1255 for those who need to renew or update their ID cards, the Legal Office will be present to assist you in updating you will and answer some legal question you might have. The base clinic will have representatives from different departments to answer your health questions. The base exchange and commissary will be present.

There will be a static display of C-130's at the airfield, transportation will be provided.

The base dining facility, building 834, located in back of the fitness center will be open for dining.

We hope everyone will have a great time while at Little Rock Air Force Base. Thank you for coming.



RETIREE BREAKFAST & LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2011

January 14, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

February 11, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

March 11, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

April 8, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

May 13, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

June 10, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

July 8, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

August 12, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

September 9, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

October 14, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

November 4, 2011 Breakfast Hangar 1080 8:15

December 9, 2011 Luncheon Hangar 1080 11:00 RESERVATIONS ONLY



MILITARY RECORDS



You should have your DD Form 214 (s) or NGB Form 22 (s) Report of Separation, and other documents which indicate your military service, to include dates of service, awards and character of service. These documents should be stored in a safe place and readily available if needed for VA/Social Security and in the event of death to be buried in a National Cemetery or a state cemetery. DO your survivors a favor and be certain that copies are available. DON'T wait till the day before you need them.

If you need to obtain an official copy of your records, contact the Retiree Activities Office and we will assist you in obtaining your records. If you are a retiree from the Arkansas Army National Guard you can obtain your records from Camp Robinson or if you retired from the Arkansas Air National Guard your records could be at the Air National Guard at Little Rock AFB.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Vehicle stickers are no longer required at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas YET!!

Be sure and have your vehicle registration and auto insurance papers in your automobile.

Burial Information for Retirees

(DD Forms 214 or NGB Form 22 required, marriage license)

Military retirees, their spouses and minor children may be buried in National Cemeteries. There is no charge for opening or closing of graves. The same covers the Arkansas State Veteran's Cemetery. Arrangements and expenses such as obtaining the services of a funeral director, selecting a funeral home, preparation of the remains, casketing, and transportation to the national cemetery or veteran's cemetery are the responsibility of the survivors or the deceased's estate.

Military honors will be made through the funeral director who will contact the proper military service.

The government will mark all graves with regulation headstones and markers of the types authorized at no charge to the survivor's or estate.

UPDATE YOUR DEERS (ID CARDS)

The Armed Forces Identification Card, DD Form 2 (Ret), is issued to retired members who are entitled to retired pay, even though they may have waived their pay in favor of VA compensation or because of employment with the Federal Government.

Dependent ID Cards, DD Form 1172, "Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card," is used to apply for issue or reissue of ID cards for dependents (DD Form 1173). Dependent ID cards generally expire four years from date of issue or expiration of sponsor's obligated service. However, eligible dependents and survivors, age 75 or older are issued permanent non-expiring ID cards.

ID cards must be surrendered when they are replaced or expired or upon demand by an authorized individual, or when the cardholder becomes ineligible.

ID's can be renewed 30 days prior to expiration

ID CARD LOCATIONS

ANG 188TH AIR NATIONAL GUARD FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS 4850 LEIGH AVENUE, BUILDING 188 (479) 573-5761

ARNG FORT CHAFFEE ARNG MTC BLDG 7075, GATE 19 ROAD, BARLING, ARKANSAS (479)484-3941

ARNG 142ND FIELD ARTILLERY FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS (501)212-7388

ARNG 77TH AVN, BLDG 25351, CAMP ROBINSON, ARKANSAS, (501)212-4977

ARNG JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, BLDG 5130 ARKANSAS AVENUE, CAMP ROBINSON, AR, (501)212-5037

ARNG PEC-GED, BLDG 16419, 7TH AND NORTH DAKOTA, CAMP ROBINSON (501) 212-5596

USA, PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, 17130 DAYTON ROAD, PINE BLUFF, AR. (870) 540-3030

USA FORT LEONARD Wood, MO, BLDG 470, 140 REPLACEMENT AVENUE, STE 2101, (573)596-0744

ANG 164TH AIR NATIONAL GUARD, MEMPHIS, TN., 4593 SWINNEA ROAD, BLDG 4507, (901)291-7220

USN NSA MID-SOUTH (MEMPHIS), Millington, BLDG 938, MILLINGTON, TN, (901)847-5581

USA RED RIVER ARMY DEPOT, 100 MAIN DRIVE, BLDG 456A, TEXARKANA, TEXAS, (903)343-2608

USAFR 917TH WING, BARKSDALE AFB, SHREVEPORT, LA, 1000 DAVIS AVE. EAST, (318)456-9205

USAF BARKSDALE AFB, BARKSDALE AFB, LA, SHREVEPORT, 800 KENNEY AVE, BLDG T4353, (318)456-3710

USAF LITTLE ROCK AFB, ARKANSAS, BLDG 1255 VANDENBERG BLVD., (501) 987-8228

ANG, 189TH AIR NATIONAL GUARD, LITTLE ROCK AFB, AR., BLDG 103, (501) 987-6703

When applying for an ID card you must have your driver's license, Social Security Card, ID card. Remember the retiree must be present when the spouse or children are applying for a new ID card. If you are a widow you will need your old ID card and driver's license. You can apply for an ID card thirty (30) days prior to expiration of your current ID card. If you are updating your ID Card when going on Medicare Part A&B you can apply two(2) weeks prior to the first day of the month of your birth.

If you are a 100% VA Disabled and applying for an ID Card you must have the following information. (1). Letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs certifying the individual is 100 percent disabled and they may receive commissary and exchange privileges. (2). Copy of their DD Form 214. (3). A photo ID. (4), Social Security Card. (5). If married, Marriage License and Birth Certificate of spouse. (6). birth certificates for all children

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PROGRAM FOR 70 YEAR OLDS

Effective October 1, 2008, SBP participants who reach 70 years of age and have made 360 payments (30 years), will no longer have to pay premiums for continued SBP coverage and will be placed in "Paid-up SBP" status.

Paid-up SBP provisions were mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 1999. The law also established a paid-up status, also beginning on October 1, 2008, for participants in the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan once they reach 70 years of age.

No action is required of SBP participants to be placed in Paid-up SBP status. Once the eligibility criteria has been met, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will automatically stop deducting premiums from qualifying military retired pay accounts.

The law establishing Paid-up SBP does not allow for refunds of premiums paid before October 1, 2008, even though a retiree may have reached age 70 and made 360 or more premium payments.

DFAS is currently developing changes to the military retiree pay systems that will monitor the number of SBP premiums paid and the age of the participant. The system updates are targeted for a May 2008 completion date. At that time, SBP participants who will be eligible for Paid-up SBP status on October 1, 2008, or will meet eligibility within a short time of the implementation date, will be notified by mail of their impending paid-up status.

Those military retirees who become eligible for Paid-up SBP status after the initial group will be notified of their SBP status on their December 2008 annual Retiree Account Statements that will note the number of premiums paid to date. Each RAS issued after December 2008, whether annually or as a result of a pay change, will include the Paid-up SBP premium "counter," based on DFAS records, to help retirees monitor their eligibility status.

More information on Paid-up SBP, including frequently asked questions and news updates, should be available at the DFAS Web site at www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html within the next several months. (Courtesy of the Defense finance and Accounting Service)

Arkansas State Veteran's Cemetery

In 1997, the 81st Arkansas General Assembly authorized the establishment of a state veterans cemetery. On November 11, 2001, the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery was formally dedicated to serve all honorably discharged veterans. The cemetery, situated on an 82-acre site, is located in North Little Rock at 1501 West Maryland Avenue.

The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs operates the cemetery to commemorate the military service of our deceased veterans. Our cemetery system provides the visiting family and friends an atmosphere of peacefulness and dignity

GRAVESITE AND NICHE LOCATIONS:

Gravesite and niche locations cannot be reserved. Assignment of graves and niches are without regard to military rank, race, creed, or gender of the qualifying service member and are assigned by next available location.

COLUMBARIUMS:

Niches are available for entombment of cremations. The eligibility requirements and costs are the same as full size grave spaces. The niche covers are not big enough for the same amount of inscription as the upright headstones, so there is no space for additional inscription. Internal size is 15" H x 20" L x 10 1/2" W.

INTERMENT ELIGIBILITY:

Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces:

- Must be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.
- Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. With certain exceptions, service beginning after Sept. 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after Oct. 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty.

National Guardsman or Reservist:

- Eligible for retirement pay at age 60; or
- Members called to active duty for 2 years or more, (does not have to be consecutive) or completed the full period for which they were called up.
- Members who die under honorable conditions or while hospitalized or undergoing treatment, at the expense of the United States, for injury or disease contracted or incurred while performing active duty for training.
- Members who die under honorable conditions while performing full time AGR service.
- Members who receive a Hardship Discharge while on active duty.
- Members discharged due to a service-connected disability while on active duty.

Arkansas State Veteran's Cemetery Continued

Others:

Commissioned Officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commissioned Officers of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, WWII Merchant Mariners, and Philippine Armed Forces. [\(see the federal guidelines\)](#)

Veteran's Dependents:

- The veteran's spouse.
- Unmarried child, (under the age of 21 or 23 if still enrolled in school); or
- A verifiable life-long dependent of the veteran.

We follow [federal guidelines](#) in determining eligibility for burial.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE:

- Former spouses whose marriage to an eligible veteran was terminated by divorce.
- Any veteran convicted of a federal or state crime. This also includes those veterans who commit capital crimes but avoid conviction due to death or flight.

WHAT PAPERWORK IS NECESSARY:

To pre-register, the following forms must be provided:

1. Veteran's military discharge papers (DD-214 or equivalent).

Signed cemetery pre-eligibility application: [Application for Interment in the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery, North Little Rock](#)

1. Marriage License (if married).
2. Check for \$300 (spouse and dependent only) payable at the time of burial.

STATE CEMETERY INTERMENT BENEFITS:

- No cost for veteran interment (\$300 for spouse or qualified dependent)
- Gravesite, opening and closing of grave and perpetual care.
- Upright federal government supplied headstone or niche cover.
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate (more than one may be requested)
- A burial flag (funeral home provides)

[Military honors](#) (funeral home makes arrangements)

[VA burial allowance](#) for funeral expenses.



RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Retiree Activities Office (RAO) serves as the interface between the active and retired communities. It is an official Air Force activity staffed by volunteers. All military retirees, regardless of service, surviving spouses of retired and active duty personnel and all military members about to retire are served by the Retiree Activity Office at Little Rock Air Force, Arkansas

The office offers a wide range of services to include:

- 1. Assistance to survivors on the Survivor Benefit Plan, Social Security benefits, accomplishment of new identification cards, assisting veterans and active duty members in applying for VA benefits.**
- 2. Sponsor AARP Drivers Safety Course each month.**
- 3. Web and email access is available and we can assist those who do not have internet capability.**
- 4. Working with senior leadership, higher headquarters and Congressional Offices to insure that retirees get as many benefits due to them as possible.**
- 5. Update the Regional Veterans Administration on proper procedures for Disabled Veterans applying for 100% ID cards and survivors applying for benefits.**
- 6. We act as a clearing house for all military retirees (regardless of branch of service) to date we have identified over fifty-two thousand retirees, dependents, survivors in Arkansas.**
- 7. We assist the base pharmacy by furnishing volunteers in the pharmacy call-in and reception booth.**
- 8. Furnish volunteers at reception desk, Consolidated Support Center to assist in signing in for ID's, Finance, and information of other office located in the building and on base.**
- 9. The Retiree Activities Office issues a shopping card for those retirees who are unable to shop for themselves, issuing it to a designated non-retiree to shop at the Base Xchange, Commissary, picking up medicine at the base clinic and Day Care drop off.**
- 10. Assist retirees in obtaining end of year documentation from DFAS for filing taxes (1099).**
- 11. The Retiree Activities Office also furnishes retirement flags to active duty members retiring. This is our way of saying thank you for your service.**
- 12. The Retiree Activities Office hours are Monday—Friday 0700—1600 hours except on Saturday and Sunday and holidays unless it is a n emergency. The Director can be reached by cell phone.**

**RETIREE
ACTIVITIES
OFFICE
19 AW/CVR**

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Suite 121

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72099

PHONE:

501-987-6095

1-877-815-3111

After Hours:

501-786-1716

FAX:

501-987-5865

E-MAIL:

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us.af.mil](mailto:john.heffernan.1.ctr@us.af.mil)**

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.littlerock.af.mil

Click Retiree Activities Office



DFAS AND Other Death Notifications

The Death of a Military Retiree or Annuitant can be reported to Defense Finance and Accounting Service at (800) 321-1080, 7:00 am – 6:30 pm Monday – Friday. You can also call the Casualty Assistance Office Little Rock AFB, Arkansas (501)987-3580, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, or call the Retiree Activities office to report the death.

If the retiree or annuitant was a civil servant or retired civil servant, notify the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) toll-free at (888)767-6738 or contact the Retiree Activities Office for assistance.

If the deceased was enrolled in DVA-sponsored insurance such as National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) or Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI), you can notify them at (800)669-8477 or contact the Retiree Activities Office for assistance.

Social Security Administration (SSA) (800)772-1213

Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) (800)776-2322

SHOPPING FOR A RETIREE

If you are a retiree that is unable to shop on base at the commissary or base exchange do to being handicap and need some assistance you can do the the following:

Have a letter from your doctor stating that you need assistance do to health reasons and name the person that will assist you.

Have the ID card holder and person who will assist come to the Retiree Activities Office, Building 1255, Suite 121 and the office will assist in issuing a shopping card for the person to shop the base exchange and commissary. (this is not a gate pass)

This card is good for one year and must be renewed along with a new letter from the doctor.

The driver must have a valid driver's license, current automobile insurance, vehicle registration on vehicle entering the base. The driver will have to stop at the Visitors Center Main Gate to be issue a day pass unless other arrangements have been made.

The person who will be shopping for the retiree will also have to have the retirees ID card in order to shop for that member.

Any questions please feel free to contact the Retiree Activities Office.